



Illustration by Debbie McNiel

ASTRAGALUS OREGANUS **WIND RIVER MILKVETCH**

Wind River Milkvetch is a perennial with lax stems 6-20 cm long that arises from deep, cord-like rhizomes. Spreading, alternate, pinnately compound leaves are 5-15 cm long with 9-15 broadly elliptical leaflets. Foliage is thinly to densely covered with long, ashen, dolabriform hairs. Spike-likely inflorescences, 3-7 cm long, are densely 20-35-flowered and arise from the axils of the upper leaves. Off-white or yellowish, pea-like flowers have a reflexed upper petal that is notched at the tip and a calyx that is 6-10 mm long and thinly covered with light-colored hairs. The fleshy, green, oblong pods are 10-15 mm long, round in cross section, and held nearly erect. Flowering and fruiting in June-July.

Distinguished from other species of *ASTRAGALUS* by the combination of the broadly elliptical to nearly round leaflets, the dolabriform foliage hairs, and the papery sheaths at the base of the petioles that completely surround the stems.